

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON  
Thursday, September 8, 2016**

A special meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, September 8, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Richard R. Searle, Chairman; Patrick G. Call, Vice-Chairman; Ann English, Supervisor

Staff Present: James E. Vlahovich, County Administrator

Edward T. Gilligan, Deputy County Administrator

Britt W. Hanson, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney

Kim Lemons, Assistant to the Clerk of the Board

Lisa Marra, Communications & Community Relations Administrator

Attendees: Katie Howard, Elections/Special Districts Director

Martha Rodriguez, Elections Program Coordinator

Sylvia Gruhn, Chief Deputy Recorder

David Raber, IT Director

Joe Casey, IT Chief Technology Officer

Eric Petermann, Sierra Vista Herald

Peter Gardner, Candidate

Tamara R. Birch

Chairman Searle called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**THE ORDER OR DELETION OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AT THE MEETING**

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***ACTION***

**Board of Supervisors**

1. Accept the elections results certified and submitted by the Cochise County Elections Department as the official canvass for the Primary Election held on August 30, 2016.

Ms. Howard referred to the handouts and stated two more provisional ballots were approved today which brought the provisional vote count up from 236 to 238. She said the voter turnout was only 31% but in line with the entire state of Arizona. She will be calculating the cost of the election in the near future. Ms. Howard summarized the required reports that are complete and ready to mail to the Secretary of State's Office. She mentioned that the new processes in

place working with the Recorder's Office for this election have improved the ballot counting process. In 2014, the process took five days but Ms. Rodriguez was able to complete in two days. She was hoping for a better turnout of voters at the vote centers for testing purposes but 75% of the ballots were cast early. Ms. Howard asked if the Board had questions.

Supervisor English commented that after looking at other counties results that Cochise County's results were more difficult to read. The public also had trouble finding the information they were looking for.

Ms. Howard said there is election night reporting software that can be purchased from Election Systems and Software (ES&S); she will check on the cost. On the first report posted, the text wrapped and was hard to read. There was a discussion about the different formats for election results delivery, including posting local results first, then state and national. Ms. Howard stated from the Election's Department standpoint the only problem on election night was a web outage for nine minutes that resulted in resetting the County server two times. This was compounded by the State's new internal system crashing. Otherwise, the new processes are working.

Mr. Vlahovich said IT staff was here to address technical questions and asked that the County's website/server issues be addressed in time for the general election. Mr. Casey said the servers had a lot of hits on election night and the pdf format for posting results increased the resources. The IT Department will look into the details of handling increased resources and adding redundancy with two servers. Mr. Raber added there would be IT staff at both the Election's and IT Department for the general election. Supervisor English stated the election process need to be above reproach and the Board needs to know what software/hardware is necessary to make that happen. Mr. Vlahovich reminded the Board of the 2016 elections concerns that had already been addressed with the purchase of new election equipment, training and implementation of vote centers.

Ms. Howard was disappointed that after all the time training and money spent, the server crash is what the public will remember. Chairman Searle asked about past traffic and server issues. Ms. Howard described four complaints received; three were found to be invalid and were addressed; contact information was not provided to deal with the fourth complaint. Ms. Howard added that it was clear poll workers need additional training on provisional ballots in order for them to answer questions and have the ballots processed and counted correctly.

Vice-Chairman Call said based on previous election turnout in 2012 primary percentage, a better characterization is that the turnout is normal for a primary, based on the County's history. The figures on early ballots indicate that vote centers/polling places will not be needed in the future.

Ms. Howard will bring recommendations to the Board, December 2016 regarding vote center changes and/or elimination.

Vice-Chairman Call moved to accept the elections results certified and submitted by the Cochise County Elections Department as the official canvass for the Primary Election held on August 30, 2016. Supervisor English seconded the motion. Chairman Searle called for the vote and it was approved 3-0.

The Board thanked Ms. Howard and her staff on the election process and new equipment.

Chairman Searle adjourned the meeting at 10:26 a.m.

APPROVED:

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Richard R. Searle, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Kim Lemons, Assistant to the Clerk of the Board